

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 06558 032113Z

64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 AID-05 /051 W

----- 037080

R 031407Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4708

US MISSION GENEVA 0655

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 6558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ET

SUBJ: PROVISIONAL CELU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTED -  
CELU HEADQUARTERS REOPENED

REF: ADDIS 6201, 6067 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON MAY 31 APPROXIMATELY 300 TRADE UNION REPS ASSEMBLED IN GRAND PALACE AS REQUESTED BY EPMG. BRIG. GEN. TEFERI BANTI, PMAC CHAIRMAN, URGED LABOR LEADERS TO SET ASIDE RIVALRIES, STRIVE TO ENSURE WORKERS' WELFARE AND TO WORK FOR WELL-BEING OF NATION. MAJ. BERHANU BAYEW (CHAIRMAN OF PMAC LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE) THEN OUTLINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO CLOSING OF CELU HEAD-QUARTERS. AFTER MORE SPEECHES, ASSEMBLAGE MOVED TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE FOR OWN MEETING TO CHOOSE COMMITTEE OF FIVE WHICH WAS CHARGED WITH MAKING IMMEDIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SELECTING NEW PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO RECONSTITUTE CELU AND OPERATE HEADQUARTERS. COMMITTEE OF FIVE WAS NAMED AFTER COUPLE HOURS DEBATE, AND MOST OF ASSEMBLAGE MOVED TO REOPEN CELU ASSEMBLY HALL FOR MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF FIVE.

FULL SESSIONS BEGAN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1, AND BY EVENING THAT DAY PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ELECTED WITH FIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 06558 032113Z

OFFICERS AND EIGHT OTHER MEMBERS. SESSIONS EXPECTED

CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK.

2. MAY 31 MEETINGS PROCEEDED IN GOOD ORDER, AND MILITARY HAD ONLY ONE OFFICER PRESENT AFTER GRAND PLACE SESSION CONCLUDED. OUTWARD APPEARANCES SEEMED TO INDICATE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WERE BEING FOLLOWED. COMMITTEE OF FIVE INCLUDED THREE TRADE UNIONISTS OF ESTABLISHED REPUTATIONS -- ELIAS MENGESHA OF HVA (SUGAR PLANTATION WORKERS), SHUMIYE TEFERRA OF HILTON HOTEL WORKERS UNION, AND IBRAHIM AHMED OF AMROPA MOTORS UNION. TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WERE TEDLA OF CELU STAFF UNION AND MARKOS HAGOS OF INSURANCE EMPLOYEES UNION, WHO APPEARED TO BE PUSHED FORWARD AS REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT RIVAL FACTIONS DESPITE THEIR LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP IN THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. MAY 31 MEETING ATTENDED PRIMATILY BY SMALL UNIONS. LARGER AND STRONGER UNIONS SUCH AS EAL, RAILWAYS , BANKS, TEXTILE WORKERS AND PETROLEUM COMPANIES EMPLOYEES ABSTAINED AND THEIR REPS DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL JUNE 1. EVEN THEN DELEGATES WERE LITTLE KNOWN FIGURES, NOT ESTABLISHED LEADERS. ASMARA REPRESENTED BY TEN DELEGATES, DIRE DAWA BY 6.

4. PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH EMERGED SUNDAY EVENING CONTAINED SOME SURPRISES. LIST FOLLOWS:

OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN -MARKOS HAGOS (INSURANCE EMPLOYEES)  
VICE CHAIRMAN -MESFIN ABRAHA (ASMARA, GLASS CO. MANAGER)  
SECGEN -TESSEMA DERESSA (AWASH VALLEY PROJECT  
EMPLOYEES)  
DEP. SEC GEN -MAKONNEN TEFAYE (ADDIS CEMENT CO.)  
TREASURER -GETACHEW AMARE (A. BESSE & CO.)

MEMBERS:

ALI HUSSEIN (INDO-ETHIOPIAN TEXTILES)  
ELIAS MENGESHA (HVA SUGAR PLANTATIONS)  
GIRMA WOLDE-SENBET (GUENET HOTEL)  
SHUMIYE TEFERRA (HILTON HOTEL)  
GEBREMIKAEL BEBRE-MEDHIN ( MOSVOLD)  
ZENEBE ZIKKE (DIRE DAWA COCA COLA)  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 06558 032113Z

BERHANE KIFLOME (ASMARA - UNION UNKNOWN)  
WUBSHET BOGALE (ASSAB TRANSIT)

5. MARKOS HAGOS HAS MEAGER MEMBERSHIP BASE AND IS BEST KNOWN FOR FACT HE WAS DISMISSED BY IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO. FOR FRAUD. NEVER- THELESS, HE APPEARS TO HAVE SOLIDIFIED, TEMPORARILY AT LEAST, SUPPORT OF VARIOUS DISSIDENT FACTIONS. NUMEROUS SUGGESTIONS BEING MADE BY OLD-TIMERS NOW OUT OF PICTURE

THAT PROMINENT ROLE MARKOS HAS PLAYED WAS RIGGED WITH SUPPORT OF MILITARY. MESFIN ABRAHA HAS STRONG TRADE UNION BACKGROUND, BUT IS ENTREPRENEUR IN HIS OWN RIGHT. CLEARLY HIS INTERESTS LIE IN ERITREA. TESSEMA DERESSA AND NAKONNEN TEFAYE ARE UNKNOWN QUANTITIES EXCEPT THAT EACH REPRESENTS SMALL UNION. GETACHEW AMARE HAS BEEN PERENNIAL OPPORTUNIST AND TROUBLEMAKER.

6. AMONG OTHER MEMBERS FIVE ARE NEW FACES: ALI HUSSEIN, GIRMA WOLDE-SENBET, ZENEBE ZIKKE, BERHANE KIFLOME, AND WUBSHET BOGALE. VERY LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT THEM AS YET. SHUMIYE TEFERRA AND GEBRE-MIKAEL GEBRE-MEDHIN HAVE GOOD TRADE UNION BACKGORUNDS BUT CONSIDERED LIGHTWEIGHTS. IT IS SURPRISING THAT ELIAS NOT ELECTED TO OFFICER POSITION AS HE HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED PRIME CANDIDATE FOR TOP POSITION. IBRAHIM AHMED DROPPED OUT OF PICTURE, POSSIBLY ON HIS OWN VOLITION.

7. FURTHER COMMENT WILL FOLLOW AS SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER.

8. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE PASS FOREGOING INFORMATION TO PAT O'FARREL AND JERRY FUNK OF AALC ATTENDING ILO CONFERENCE. HUMMEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS06558  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750194-0307  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750683/aaaacyds.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ADDIS 6201, 75 6067  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROVISIONAL CELU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTED - CELU HEADQUARTERS REOPENED  
**TAGS:** ELAB, ET, CELU  
**To:** STATE GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006